1 2 3 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 4 FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON 5 AT SEATTLE 6 7 8 Sanjay Chakravarty, Txley, Inc., 9 Plaintiff(s), 10 Case No. 20-1576 11 v. 12 13 Judge 14 Eric Peterson, City of Burlington, Skagit County - State of Washington 15 Defendant(s). [Jury Trial Demanded] 16 17 **COMPLAINT** 18 Plaintiffs Sanjay Chakravarty and Txley, Inc. ("Plaintiffs") by its attorneys files this Complaint 19 against Defendants Eric Peterson, the City of Burlington, and Skagit County as a political subdivision of the State of Washington ("Defendants") and alleges as follows: 20 NATURE OF THE ACTION 21 22 1. This is an action concerning a breach of contract, tortious interference with business expectancy, and for alternative violations(s) of 18 U.S. Code § 1962 and 42 U.S. Code § 23 1983. This case is about a pattern of observably arbitrary and discriminatory decision making by a specific public official. Is it more than a grudge? Did the Defendant Eric 24 Peterson discriminate illegally against Mr. Sanjay Chakravarty in the public bidding process? 25 If so, why? Did he do it out of greed, or did he do it out of racial bias, or perhaps both? 26 BREACH OF CONTRACT, TORTIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH BUSINESS 27 EXPECTANCY, AND FOR ALTERNATIVE VIOLATIONS(S) OF 18 U.S. CODE § 1962 28 AND 42 U.S. CODE § 1983. - 1 Case No. WHEAT LEGAL PLLC 701 FIFTH AVENUE **SUITE 4265**

> SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104-7047 TELEPHONE: (206) 262-7381 info@wheatlegal.com

1 2. Plaintiff is seeking liability and damages and note that the complaint will also contain a formal prayer at its end (see below). 2 3 **THE PARTIES** 4 3. Plaintiff Sanjay Chakravarty ("Plaintiff Chakravarty") is an individual residing in Mount 5 Vernon, Washington and a citizen of the state of Washington. 6 4. Plaintiff Txley, Inc. ("Txley" pron. "Tex-lee") is a Washington state corporation registered 7 and doing business in Skagit County. 8 5. Defendant Eric Peterson ("Defendant Peterson") is an individual that on information and 9 belief is residing within this court's jurisdiction. Defendant Peterson is the Facilities Coordinator for Skagit County Facilities Management. 10 11 6. Defendant City of Burlington is a municipal corporation situated in Washington State. 12 7. Defendant Skagit County is cited as a political subdivision of Washington State. 13 14 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE** 15 8. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action under 18 U.S. Code § 1962 16 and 42 U.S. Code § 1983. This Court has further supplemental jurisdiction under 28 U.S. Code § 1367. 17 18 9. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant Peterson because Defendant Peterson is domiciled in Washington State. 19 20 10. Venue in this district is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) because the defendant resides in this district and all other defendants reside in this district or a district within this state. 21 22 **FACTS** 23 24 11. For ten years Plaintiff Sanjay Chakravarty has owned and operated Txley, Inc., a facilities supply business operating in Western Washington. 25 26 BREACH OF CONTRACT, TORTIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH BUSINESS 27 EXPECTANCY, AND FOR ALTERNATIVE VIOLATIONS(S) OF 18 U.S. CODE § 1962 AND 42 U.S. CODE § 1983. - 2 28 Case No. WHEAT LEGAL PLLC 701 FIFTH AVENUE

12. Txley was established in 2010 as a facilities supply and distribution company. Their focus is on performance, reliability, and trustworthiness. They pride themselves in, "[being] an independently owned company that has continued to increase our market share every day for a reason. With our deep knowledge of the local market and our smart approach to finding the best products and negotiating the best deals, we make sure our clients have the most positive and profitable experience available. And because we live in the communities where we do business – we are aware of the trends, which in turn provides an unprecedented understanding of the latest market conditions. When it comes to market knowledge, Txley remains the number one resource for your JanSan & Facility needs."

13. The Plaintiff's organization employs numerous people in the region from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and experiences.





14. Photos of Plaintiff's team

- 15. The Plaintiff Txley is a member of the Burlington Chamber of Commerce, Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce; they are also members of the Skagit County Builders Association, Building Services Contractors Association.
- 16. Under RCW 36.32.245 no contract for the provision of materials or supplies may be entered into with a county until after bids are sought, and that contracts requiring competitive bidding may be awarded only to the lowest responsible bidder.
- 17. In 2019 Plaintiff had suggested alternates that some branded alternatives contain higher volumes of chlorine toxicity than products carried by the Defendant. Plaintiff makes a practice of suggesting alternative cost-effective solutions of similar or higher efficacy.
- 18. THAT TIME DEFENDANT ERIC PETERSON SLAMMED THE DOOR IN PLAINTIFF'S FACE ON LEARNING THAT THE "JAY" OVER THE PHONE WAS IN FACT "SANJAY CHAKRAVARTY" When Plaintiff Chakravarty attempted to meet with Defendant Peterson in person, the prior courteous tone and tenor their telephone conversations suddenly dissipated. Plaintiff was acutely aware of the change in how "Jay" was treated, from how "Sanjay" was treated. He felt aggrieved by the Defendant's implicit bias then, and he raised the issue, to no avail, with the City of Burlington.
- BREACH OF CONTRACT, TORTIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH BUSINESS EXPECTANCY, AND FOR ALTERNATIVE VIOLATIONS(S) OF 18 U.S. CODE § 1962 AND 42 U.S. CODE § 1983. 3 Case No.

1 29. On information and belief, Eric Peterson and Franz Johnson of Bay City Supply acted together in either collusion, or conspiracy, or both. 2 3 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF** 4 (Breach of Contract) 5 (Against Defendants City of Burlington and Skagit County) 6 30. The Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference its allegations to Paragraphs 11 through 7 8 31. On 10 April 2019, Plaintiff and Defendant Skagit County entered into a Vendor Services 9 Agreement by which Plaintiff provided services/products up to a maximum sum of 10 \$40,000.00. A true and correct copy of this contract is annexed hereto as **Exhibit A**. This amount was later increased by \$8,000.00 on March 20, 2020. 11 12 32. Plaintiff has duly performed all of his/its obligations and duties under the contract. 13 33. By not ordering products Defendant Skagit County has breached the contract by refusing to 14 renew or order products it carries and stocks under its agreement. 15 34. As a result of Defendant's breach of contract, Plaintiff has been damaged in an amount to be 16 determined by the court, but no less than \$42,000. 17 35. The plaintiff, Txley, Inc., claims that the defendant, Skagit County, entered into a contract 18 with it for the supply of facilities maintained by the County. Txley claims that Skagit County breached this contract by failing to make orders under the Agreement, and instead diverting 19 orders to Bay City Supply. 20 SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF 21 22 (Tortious Interference with Business Expectancy) 23 (Against Defendant – Eric Peterson) 24 36. The Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference its allegations to Paragraphs 11 25 through 29. 26 BREACH OF CONTRACT, TORTIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH BUSINESS 27 EXPECTANCY, AND FOR ALTERNATIVE VIOLATIONS(S) OF 18 U.S. CODE § 1962 AND 42 U.S. CODE § 1983. - 5 28 Case No. WHEAT LEGAL PLLC 701 FIFTH AVENUE **SUITE 4265**

1	37. That at the time of the conduct at issue, Plaintiff Txley had a business relationship or					
2	expectancy with a probability of future economic benefit for Plaintiff(s);					
3	38. Eric Peterson knew of the existence of that business relationship or expectancy;					
4	39. Eric Peterson intentionally induced or caused the termination of the business relationship					
5	or expectancy;					
6	40. Defendant Eric Peterson's interference was for an improper purpose or by improper					
7	means, and that the pattern of discriminatory conduct was a proximate cause of damages to Plaintiff(s).					
8	Traintin(s).					
9	THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF					
0	(CIVIL RICO)					
1	(Against Defendant – Eric Peterson)					
12	(rigamist Detendant Drie Peterson)					
13	41. The Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference its allegations to Paragraphs 11 through 29.					
15	42. An enterprise existed for the purposes of overcharging the public purse for cleaning					
6	supplies and chemicals. Eric Peterson, Ken Hansen, Bay City Supply, Ace Hardware Anacortes & Friday Harbor, and the principals of small local suppliers cooperated in order to					
7	render a bid uncompetitive.					
18	43. During the Covid-19 era, shortages of chemicals used in disinfectants impacts upon					
9	interstate commerce in fostering or taking advantage of anti-competitive markets during a time of public emergency.					
20						
21	44. On information and belief, Eric Peterson derived income from a pattern of racketeering activity.					
22	45. Part of that income was used in acquiring an interest in or operating the enterprise.					
23	43. Fart of that income was used in acquiring an interest in or operating the enterprise.					
24	FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF					
25 26	(CIVIL RIGHTS)					
27	BREACH OF CONTRACT, TORTIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH BUSINESS					
28	EXPECTANCY, AND FOR ALTERNATIVE VIOLATIONS(S) OF 18 U.S. CODE § 1962 AND 42 U.S. CODE § 1983 6					
	Case No. WHEAT LEGAL PLLC 701 FIFTH AVENUE					

1 (Against Defendants – Eric Peterson; City of Burlington; Skagit County) 2 46. The Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference its allegations to Paragraphs 11 3 through 29. 4 47. At the time of the incident(s), Eric Peterson was acting under color of law; 5 48. Defendant Eric Peterson intentionally discriminated against Plaintiff Sanjay Chakravarty 6 on the basis of national origin or race by rigging public bids for the supply of cleaning materials, both while at the City of Burlington, and at Skagit County. 7 8 49. The acts or omissions of Defendant Eric Peterson subjected Plaintiff Sanjay Chakravarty to be subjected to the deprivation of rights protected by the Constitution or the laws of the 9 United States, namely the right not to be denied the equal protection of the laws of the State 10 on the basis of skin color or national origin; and 11 50. Defendant Eric Peterson's actions proximately caused injury or damage to Plaintiff 12 Sanjay Chakravarty. 13 PRAYER FOR RELIEF 14 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court enter a judgment against 15 Defendants, granting Plaintiff the following relief: 16 1. The entry of judgment in favor of the plaintiff on each and every cause of action; 17 18 2. The award of the requested damages in the amount of no less than \$144,000.00; 19 3. The award of costs of the suit and attorney's fees; and 20 4. Such other relief as the Court deems just and proper. 21 22 23 24 25 26 BREACH OF CONTRACT, TORTIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH BUSINESS 27 EXPECTANCY, AND FOR ALTERNATIVE VIOLATIONS(S) OF 18 U.S. CODE § 1962 AND 42 U.S. CODE § 1983. - 7 28 Case No. WHEAT LEGAL PLLC

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all issues that are so triable. BREACH OF CONTRACT, TORTIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH BUSINESS EXPECTANCY, AND FOR ALTERNATIVE VIOLATIONS(S) OF 18 U.S. CODE § 1962 AND 42 U.S. CODE § 1983. - 8 Case No.

Case 2:20-cv-01576-MJP Document 1 Filed 10/26/20 Page 9 of 16

Dated: 26th day of October 2020 Respectfully submitted, Jeffery M. Wheat, WSBA No. 54228 WHEAT LEGAL PLLC 701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4265 Seattle, Washington 98104-7047 Telephone: (206) 262-7381 jeff@wheatlegal.com BREACH OF CONTRACT, TORTIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH BUSINESS EXPECTANCY, AND FOR ALTERNATIVE VIOLATIONS(S) OF 18 U.S. CODE § 1962 AND 42 U.S. CODE § 1983. - 9 Case No.

EXHIBIT A

VENDOR SERVICES AGREEMENT

Skagit County, through the Department of Facilities Management (hereinafter referred to as County) and Txley, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as Contractor), for and in consideration of the mutual benefits do hereby agree as follows:

- 1. Contractor will provide the following service/products at such time and in such manner as described in "Exhibit A".
- County will compensate Contractor a maximum of \$40,000.00, chargeable to GL expenditure code #001 51400003120, 001 51400003510, or any others that may apply.
- The parties agree that Contractor is an independent contractor, and not an employee nor agent of Skagit County. Contractor hereby agrees not to make any representations to any third party, nor to allow such third party to remain under the misimpression that Contractor is an employee of Skagit County. All payments made hereunder and all services performed shall be made and performed pursuant to this Agreement by the Contractor as an independent contractor. Contractor will defend, indemnify and hold harmless the County, its officers, agents or employees from any loss or expense, including but not limited to settlements, judgments, setoffs, attorneys' fees or costs incurred by reason of claims or demands because of breach of the provisions of this paragraph. Further the Contractor represents that all employees and sub-contractors are covered under Industrial Insurance in compliance with R.C.W. Title 51.

4. Defense & Indemnity Agreement:

The Contractor agrees to defend, indemnify and save harmless the County, its appointed and elective officers and employees, from and against all loss or expense, including but not limited to judgments, settlements, attorney's fees and costs by reason of any and all claims and demands upon the County, its elected or appointed officials or employees for damages because of personal or bodily injury, including death at any time resulting therefrom, sustained by any person or persons and on account of damage to property including loss of use thereof, whether such injury to persons or damage to property is due to the negligence of the Contractor, its subcontractors, its elected officers, employees or their agents, except only such injury or damage as shall have been occasioned by the sole negligence of the County, its appointed or elected officials or employees. It is further provided that no liability shall attach to the County by reason of entering into this contract, except as expressly provided herein.

This Contract shall commence on date of execution and continue until either party terminates by giving 30 days notice in writing either personally delivered or mailed postage prepaid by certified mail, return receipt requested to the party's last known address, but in no event shall the contract continue for more than one year from date of execution. County and Contractor have option to extend for one additional year via an amendment.

- The Contractor shall not assign any interest in this Contract and shall not transfer any interest in same without prior written County consent.
- 7. The Contractor will secure, at his own expense, all personnel required in performing said services under this Contract. Contractor shall be personally liable for applicable payroll, labor and industries premiums and all applicable taxes and shall hold County harmless therefrom.
- 8. The Contractor shall provide proof of insurance for general comprehensive liability in the amount of \$1,000,000 to cover Contractor's activities during the term of this Contract. Proof of insurance shall be in a form acceptable and approved by the County. A certificate of insurance naming the County, its elected officials, and employees as additional insured's and naming the County as a certificate holder shall accompany this Contract for signing. Thirty (30) days' written notice to the County of cancellation of the insurance policy is required. No contract shall form until and unless a copy of the certificate of insurance, in the amount required, is attached hereto as set forth in "Exhibit "B". The contractors insurance shall be primary. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the County, its officers, officials, employees or volunteers shall be excess of Contractors insurance and shall not contribute to it.

9. Prevailing Wages:

If applicable, Contractor and subcontractor shall submit a "Statement of Intent to Pay Prevailing Wages" prior to submitting first application for payment. Each statement of intent to pay prevailing wages must be approved by the Industrial Statistician of the Department of Labor and Industries before it is submitted to the County. Unless otherwise authorized by the Department of Labor and Industries, each voucher claim submitted by a Contractor for payment on a project estimate shall state that the prevailing wages have been paid in accordance with the pre-filed statement or statements of Intent to Pay Prevailing Wages on file with the public agency.

10. Termination for Public Convenience:

The County may terminate the contract in whole or in part whenever the County determines, in its sole discretion that such termination is in the best interests of the County. Whenever the contract is terminated in accordance with this paragraph, the Contractor shall be entitled to payment for actual work performed at unit contract prices for completed items of work. An equitable adjustment in the contract price for partially completed items of work will be made, but such adjustment shall not include provision for loss of anticipated profit on deleted or uncompleted work. Termination of this contract by the County at any time during the term, whether for default or convenience, shall not constitute a breach of contract by the County. If sufficient funds are not appropriated or allocated for payment under this contract for any future fiscal period, the County will not be obligated to make payments for services or amounts incurred after the end of the current fiscal period. No penalty or expense shall accrue to the County in the event this provision applies.

CONTRACTOR:

Signature & Title of Signatory (Date 4/18/19)

hakravar

President

Mailing Address:

VENDOR SERVICES AGREEMENT TXLEY, INC., CONTRACTOR			
DATED this day of	, 2019.		
		BOARD OF COUNTY CO SKAGIT COUNTY, WAS	
		Lisa Janicki, Chair	
		Ron Wesen, Commission	ner
Attest:		Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Co	ommissioner
Clerk of the Board		For contracts under \$5,00 Authorization per Resolut	
Recommended:		County Administrator	
Department Head			
Approved as to form:			
Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney			
Approved as to indemnification:			
Risk Manager			
Approved as to budget:			
Budget & Finance Director			

EXHIBIT "A"

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Services Title: Custodial Equipment and Supplies
Delivery Location: Administration Building, 700 S 2nd St, Rm 124, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Contractor shall deliver or ship requested amounts of all sanitary paper products, custodial cleaning equipment and supplies to the address above.

For the term of the Contract, pricing for all products will be no greater than the agreed upon Price List. If, however, during any term of the Contract lower prices and rates become effective for like quantities of materials, through reduction in Contractor's list prices, promotional discounts, or other circumstances, County will be given immediate benefit of such lower prices.

Unless otherwise specified in the Solicitation, no additional charges by the Contractor will be allowed including, but not limited to: handling charges such as packing, wrapping, or boxes. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that market conditions, laws, regulations or other unforeseen factors dictate, at the Director of Facilities Management's sole discretion, additional charges may be allowed.

At least 45 calendar days before the end of the current term of this Contract, Contractor may propose rate increases by written notice to the County. The County may take Price adjustments into consideration, when determining whether or not to extend this Contract. No consideration will be given to price increase requests without supporting documentation sufficient to justify the requested increase. All price increases must have supporting documentation sufficient to justify the requested increase. The grant of any price adjustment will be at the sole discretion of the County Facilities Management Director and, if granted, shall not produce a higher profit margin for the Contractor than that established by the original contract pricing. The Contractor will receive written approval from the County of any price adjustment and such price adjustment shall be set forth in a written amendment to the contract. Price adjustments shall remain unchanged for at least one year thereafter.

The County will not be bound by invoice prices that are higher than those in the contract, unless Facilities Management has accepted the higher price and the amended the contract. The Contractor will correct any incorrect invoice pricing.

COMPENSATION

Prices provided on next page to be locked in unless there is a government or manufacturer imposed tariff increase.

Total compensation not to exceed \$40,000.

Price List

Item	Packaging	Brand	Price
Toilet Paper 2-Ply for GP Model 56784	18 Rolls/Case	стс	\$ 34.95
Brown Hardwound Towel	6 Rolls/Case	GP Sofpull or equivalent	\$ 49.95
White Hardwound Towel	6 Rolls/Case	Oasis or equivalent	\$ 29.95
Paper Towels	30 Rolls/Case	BWK	\$ 27.95
Toilet Seat Cover	20 Boxes/Case	Karat	\$ 33.95
Trash Liners, 2.0 mil	100 Liners/Case	AP	\$ 28.95
Trash Liners, 1.5 mil	250 Liners/Case	AP	\$ 28.95
Trash Liners, .9 mil	500 Liners/Case	AP	\$ 28.95
Waxed paper bags	500 Bags/Case	HOS	\$ 27.13
Disinfection Tablets, 200 tabs	200 Tabs / 5 lb	Protexus Purtabs	\$ 59.95
Disinfection Solution Concentrate	4x2L/Case	Multi-Task Century 256	\$ 129.92
Liquid Bacteria Digester, Push	Quart	Multiclean	\$ 5.95
Sanitizer/Virucide Cleaner Concentrate	4x2L/Case	Multiclean 007	\$ 128.79
Sanitizer/Virucide Cleaner	Gallon	Multiclean	\$ 23.95
Hard Water/Soap Scum Remover	Quart	Multiclean	\$ 3.75
Furniture polish, aerosol	18 oz Can	NCL	\$ 6.95
Neutral Cleaner Concentrate	4x2L/Case	Multiclean NeutraZyme	\$ 138.68
Neutral Cleaner	Quart	Multiclean	\$ 3.75
Stainless Steel Cleaner, aerosol	16 oz Can	BWK	\$ 4.95
Air Freshener, Aerosol, aerosol	14.25 oz Can	Nilodor	\$ 4.95
Toilet Bowl Cleaner	Quart	Multiclean	\$ 5.95
Foaming Hand Cleanser	Gallon	Multiclean	\$ 56.00
Glass & Surface Cleaner, aerosol	16 oz Can	BWK	\$ 3.19
Cleaner Paste	30 oz Can	QB	\$ 15.95
White Vinegar	Gallon	Four Monks	\$ 17.95
Urinal deodorant block	12 blocks/Box	Fresh	\$ 9.95
Carpet / Floor Cleaner Defoamer	Gallon	Multiclean	\$ 16.95
Gloves, Latex	100/Box	Karat	\$ 4.95
Gloves, Latex	100/Box	Karat	\$ 4.95
Gloves, Latex	100/Box	Karat	\$ 4.95
Wall-mounted Dilution System	2 Diluters	Multiclean	\$ 140.00
Urinal Screen	12/box		\$ 14.95
Plastic Toilet Bowl Brush	each	Plastic or equivalent	\$ 2.95
Burnishing Porko Plus Pad	each	Americo Manufacturing or equivalent	\$ 6.95
Doodlebug Floor Cleansing Pad	10/box	3M or equivalent	\$ 17.49
#117 Spray Bottle	each		\$ 2.50

This list does not include every item that will be needed by Skagit County Facilities Management. Prices for any additional equipment or supplies will be agreed upon prior to ordering, delivery, and invoicing. The Custodial Supervisor is authorized to request and approve additional items pricing.

EXHIBIT "B"

PROOF OF INSURANCE

The Contractor shall provide proof of insurance for Commercial General Liability or Professional Liability in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 to cover Contractor's activities during the term of this Contract. Proof of insurance shall be in a form acceptable and approved by the County. Contractors insurance shall be primary.

The type of insurance required by this Agreement is marked below.

 1) Commercial General Liability Insurance
Certificate Holder – Skagit County
The Certificate must name the County as additional insured
Skagit County, its elected officials, officers and employees are named as additional insured.
Thirty (30) days written notice to the County of cancellation of the insurance policy.
Professional Liability
Certificate Holder – Skagit County
Thirty (30) days written notice to the County of cancellation of the insurance policy

NOTE: No contract shall form until and unless a copy of the Certificate of Insurance, properly completed and in the amount required, is attached hereto.

√ 3)	Insurance is waived	
Date:		_
	Risk Manager	